

Receipt date: 10/25/2010

10573948 - GAU: 3738 PTO/SB/08a (07-09)

Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 06551-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Substitute for Forms PTO-1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

| | | | | | |
|-------|---|----|---|------------------------|--------------------|
| Sheet | 1 | of | 2 | Application Number | 10/573948 |
| | | | | Filing Date | 05/01/2007 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Thomas Nissl |
| | | | | Art Unit | 3738 |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Tiffany P. Shipmon |
| | | | | Attorney Docket Number | 37621/51901 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| T.S.J. | 1 | US-5,156,609 | 10/20/92 | Nakao, et al. | |
| | 2 | US-5,749,921 | 05/12/98 | Lenker, et al. | |
| | 3 | US-5,776,186 | 07/07/98 | Uflacker | |
| | 4 | US-5,897,589 | 04/27/99 | Cottenceau, et al. | |
| | 5 | US-5,941,895 | 08/24/99 | Myler, et al. | |
| | 6 | US-6,090,129 | 07/18/00 | Ouchi | |
| | 7 | US-6,165,209 | 12/26/06 | Patterson, et al. | |
| | 8 | US-6,187,016 | 02/13/01 | Hedges, et al. | |
| | 9 | US-6,241,757 | 06/05/01 | An, et al. | |
| | 10 | US-6,361,540 | 03/28/02 | Gauderer, et al. | |
| | 11 | US-6,676,692 | 01/13/04 | Rabkin, et al. | |
| | 12 | US-6,679,893 | 01/20/04 | Tran | |
| | 13 | US-6,802,846 | 10/12/04 | Hauschild, et al. | |
| | 14 | US-6,821,291 | 11/23/04 | Bolea, et al. | |
| | 15 | US-7,175,652 | Feb-07 | Cook, et al. | |
| | 16 | US-7,252,680 | 08/07/07 | Freitag | |

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Publication Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|
| T.S.J. | 17 | US-2002/0040236 | 04/04/02 | Lau, et al. | |
| | 18 | US-2002/0143387 | 10/03/02 | Soetikno, et al. | |
| | 19 | US-2003/0149475 | 08/07/03 | Hydoh, et al. | |
| | 20 | US-2007/0233230 | 10/04/07 | Nissl, et al. | |
| | 21 | US-2007/0276463 | 11/29/07 | Nissl, et al. | |
| | 22 | US-2008/0033528 | 02/07/08 | Satsiya, et al. | |
| | 23 | US-2008/0140181 | 06/12/08 | Reynolds, et al. | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| EXAMINER SIGNATURE | /Tiffany Shipmon/ | DATE CONSIDERED | 11/30/2010 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. *Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. *Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). *For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. *Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. *Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Receipt date: 10/25/2010

Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 06551-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

| | | | | | |
|--|---|----|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Substitute for Forms PTO-1449/PTO | | | Complete if Known | | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | Application Number | 10/573948 | |
| | | | Filing Date | 05/01/2007 | |
| | | | First Named Inventor | Thomas Nissl | |
| | | | Art Unit | 3738 | |
| | | | Examiner Name | Tiffany P. Shipmon | |
| Sheet | 2 | of | 2 | Attorney Docket Number | 37621/51901 |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. 1 | Foreign Patent Document Number Country Code*Number*Kind Code* (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| /T.S./ | 24 | EP 0701800 A1 | 3/20/1996 | C.R. Bard, Inc. | | |
| | 25 | EP 0857471 | 8/12/1998 | Coloco Surgical Instr Co. | | |
| | 26 | JP 11-057022 | 3/2/1999 | Saeki Toshio | | |
| | 27 | WO 03/096935 | 11/27/2003 | Cook Incorporated | | |
| | 28 | WO 05/079705 | 9/1/2005 | Laboratories Perouse | | |

| NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|---|--|--|--|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. | Include name of the author (in CAPS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. For web pages and online documents, include author or site publisher (in CAPS), title of document, web page address (URL), date published (if known), "visited" date, pages. | | | | T ⁶ |
| /T.S./ | 29 | Advisory Action issued in US Application no. 11/496910 dated 11/18/09. | | | | |
| | 30 | Examination Report for EP 04789198 dated 10/25/07. | | | | |
| | 31 | International Search Report for PCT/US2005/038519 dated 2/22/06. | | | | |
| | 32 | Office Action issued in US Application no. 11/496910 dated 10/15/09. | | | | |
| | 33 | Office Action issued in US Application no. 11/496910 dated 3/18/09. | | | | |
| | 34 | Restriction Requirement issued in US Application no. 11/496910 dated 2/3/09. | | | | |
| | 35 | Office Action dated 06/24/2010 for U.S. Application No. 11/577,859. | | | | |
| | 36 | Office Action dated 06/10/2010 for U.S. Application No. 11/496,910. | | | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| EXAMINER SIGNATURE | /Tiffany Shipmon/ | DATE CONSIDERED | 11/30/2010 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. *Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). *See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. *Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). *For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. *Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. *Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.